

Longacre's Ledger

The Journal of The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors' Society
Volume 20.2, Issue #79 www.fly-inclub.org August 2010



The "Back" Issue



The Blog!
By Charmy Harker
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***Cent struck on a Half
Dime - Can you guess
the date?***
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***Oak & Shield
Reverse Designs
1860-1909***
By Rick Snow
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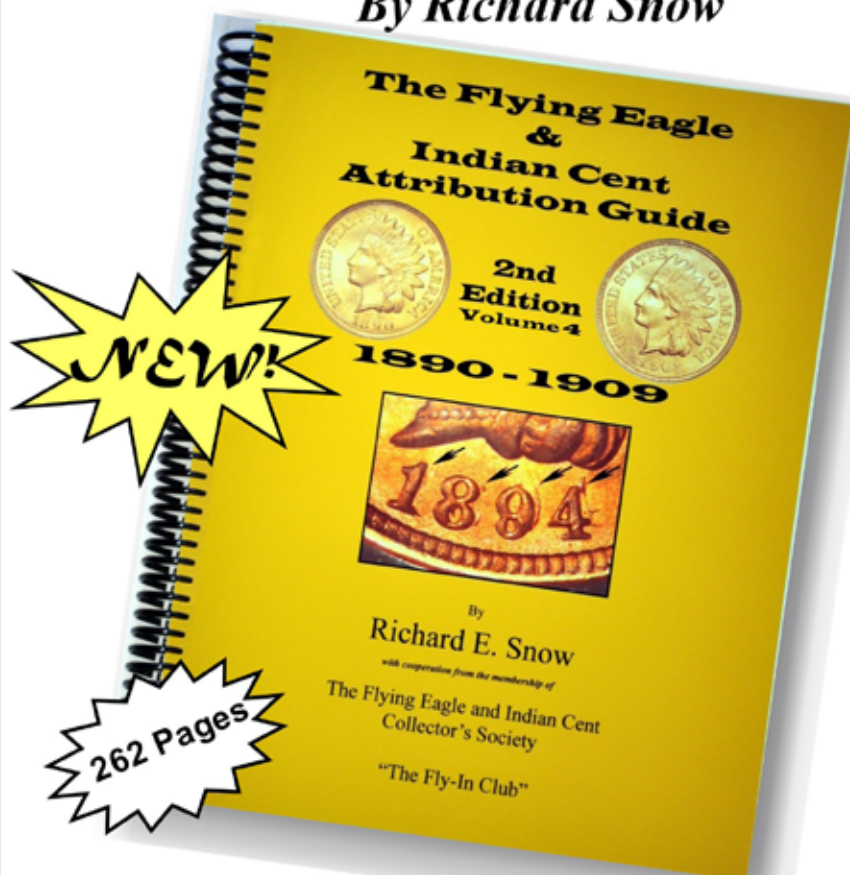


***Putting a date on a coin
without a date***
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Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Attribution Guide

Volume 4 1890-1909

By Richard Snow



This is the only complete reference for Flying Eagle and Indian Cent varieties. It is not just a variety list - The economic history of the period and its relationship to the cent is detailed in a year-by-year analysis. 262 pages. Spiral binding.

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The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors' Society

Our mission is to gather and disseminate information related to James B. Longacre (1794-1869), with emphasis on his work as Chief Engraver of the Mint (1844 -1869) with a primary focus on his Flying Eagle and Indian Cent coinage.

Founded 1991

www.fly-inclub.org

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On the cover...

This is a cent struck on a Half Dime planchet. The obverse is blank because there were two planchets together when this coin was struck - a Half Dime planchet and presumably a cent planchet. Can you guess what date it is?

Image by Rick Snow

Special thanks to Heritage Auctions for printing this issue of Longacre's Ledger

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Longacre's Ledger

2010 Vol. 20.1 Issue #78

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Submission guidelines

If you have a substantive article you would like to contribute, please follow these guidelines:

- ✓ If you have internet access, you can send text to the editor's e-mail address below. Please send images in separate files.
- ✓ You may also send files and images on a CD-W disk or other storage device to the editor's address below. Storage devices will be returned upon request.
- ✓ Images of material can be made by the editor for use in the Journal. Please include the necessary return postage with the submission.
- ✓ Please feel free to contact the editor if you have any questions.

Submission deadlines

Please submit all articles, letters, columns, press releases and advertisements no later than the following dates to assure inclusion:

Issue	Deadline	Show issue
#80 2010 Vol. 20.3	November 15, 2010.	FUN 2011
#81 2011 Vol. 21.1.	March 15, 2011	CSNS 2011
#82 2011 Vol. 21.2	July 15, 2011	ANA 2011
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The President's Letter

By Chris Pilliod

This is my 37th President's letter and this one finds me just returning from a Premium Melt Symposium in Philadelphia, PA. Approximately 100 attendees gather every other year from around the globe to discuss specialty alloy melting, forging, new alloys being developed and so on. Topics include the commercial end of business, technical issues, metallurgy and so on. It's always an assemblage of bitter rivals so I think organizers strive to find relaxing environments and hold the conference in some nice getaways—Lake Tahoe four years ago, Hilton Head Island several times, Naples 10 years ago, and so on. This year was Philly... oh well.

Two of the days the conference concludes after lunch and on one of these occasions I took the opportunity to perform a walking tour of the four Philadelphia Mint sites in Philadelphia. The first and second mint buildings are long gone, but both the third Mint and the current fourth Mint buildings are still standing. The third Mint building is now Philadelphia Community College and, of course the fourth mint is the one in full production use. I do this every year-- just walk to the four Mint location sites around the downtown area. The four mint locations are quite a hike from each other.

The second Mint building was commissioned right smack in the heart of the Business District near City Hall and, 30 years or so after groundbreaking, would become the location where the first Flying Eagle and Indian Cents were struck. It was decommissioned in 1901 and torn down for commercial development even before the first Mint building was razed I believe. Not even a marker exists where the building stood so you need to be a good reader of the city map just to stand on the spot where it was located. I looked around the foyer of the new bank residing there now but didn't find any 1856 Flying Eagles laying around. But I did find a 1985 Lincoln Cent that looked like it had been run over by about a half million taxis. This area is the heart of the City District and is bustling with pedestrians and taxis honking and so on. Hard to even imagine a Mint there now. If you're in for a walking tour of the four Mints this one can be safely skipped.

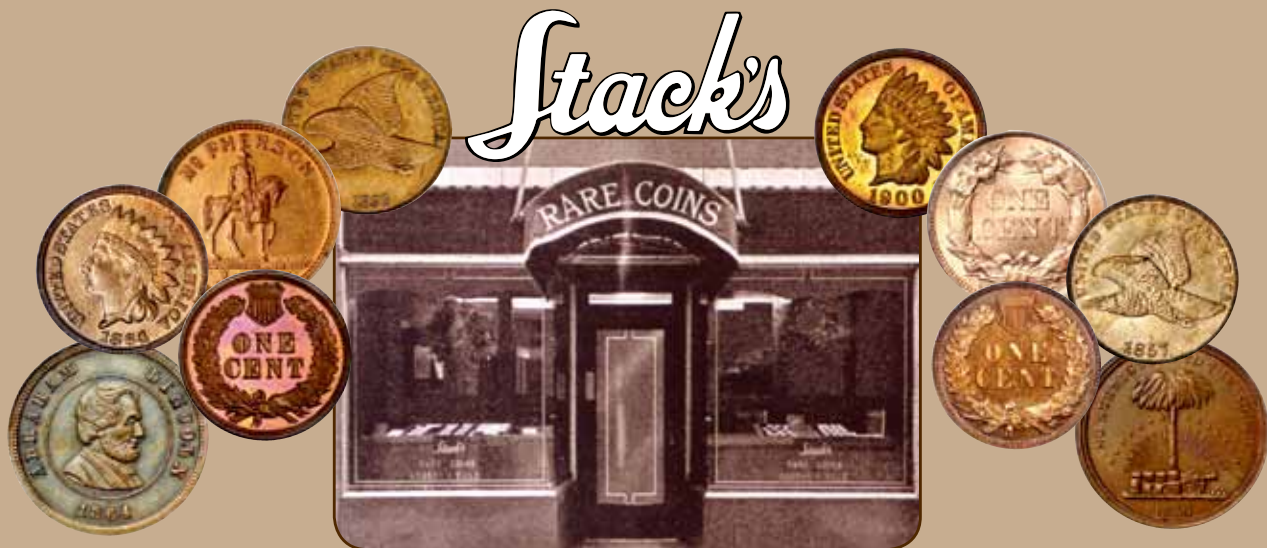


The first Mint struck its first coins in the form of Half Dimes in 1792 supposedly with Martha Washington's silverware as melt stock (they would have been made of galvanized steel if they asked for my bachelor place settings). The story is mentioned that the roof was not even completed when they fired up the press in their rush to show the nation they had begun their own monetary system. After a severe fire in 1816 and then with the rapidly expanding nation and the resultant higher demand of coinage, the first mint was shut down in 1833 but the building itself was used by various merchants as a storefront until it was demolished in 1911. A new modern office building stands there now with just a commemorative plaque left that most passersby's just ignore as they walk down the block to the Liberty Bell.



It's quite a hike from the second to the third Mint building. Back in the turn of the Century, it must have felt like an excursion to the suburbs north of the city. Nowadays, Spring Garden Street is near-north side and is actually the beginnings of the residential section of town north of the city. The great news is the grand old building is still fully intact as it was constructed in 1901. But once inside, there's not a lot of Mint history left at the third Mint Building, which has been retrofitted into the Philadelphia Community College. The original entry is the main campus entrance and the original bronze plaque boldly pronouncing "3rd US Mint" still greets the visitor above the archway. Inside the confines students and administration scramble around oblivious to their building's history. I stopped a knowledgeable lady employee there with quite a bit of seniority and engaged her in the history of the building. She politely mentioned a few tidbits of information and then confided that in the basement there was "one helluva vault" that I'd love to see but it was off limits to the





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general public. “That’s where they used to store all the gold” she continued.

I walked on and found the Library which is actually an addendum to the original Mint building. “Did you know they once minted United States coins here?” I queried a couple passing by students.

“No, not really,” they replied, “but that’s cool.”

Inside the main foyer in the middle of the building blooms a student art display. In addition, about a dozen old black-and-white photos from the glory days of the Mint collect dust on a wall near some of the classrooms. Every year I study these photos to figure out exactly what everyone is doing and what the equipment is being utilized for—a couple of them I never have been sure about, but most become evident. So I pretty much have everything figured out in the photos. But this year as I studied the photos one teeny-tiny item in the corner of an 8 by 10 black-and-white grabbed my eye and I began gazing at it for a long time.

In my intensity, I found myself taking off my glasses as my bifocals wouldn’t even allow a close enough study. My head was cocked to get a good angle and my nose was dang near pressed up against the photo when I heard a custodian ask, “May I help you????”

“No,” I replied embarrassingly, “just enjoyin’ these old photos.”

After about five minutes of that up-close encounter I told myself, “I think right here is a big clue to a numismatic mystery we have been trying to figure out...I wish I would’ve noticed it before.” But I’ll have to save this for an article only after I can collect some needed data to substantiate my thought processing. Look for it in a future Ledger.

I always wrap up my travels at the fourth and current US Mint on the corner of 5th and Arch Streets. Most people outside the building are throwing pennies on Benjamin Franklin’s grave across the street but I just walk by and head into the Mint for the visitor’s tour and a good look at the two screw presses inside. It’s actually a bit of a boring tour unless you like seeing gobs of coins spewing out of the modern Schuler presses—doesn’t do much for me.



Peter the Mint Eagle

But there are a few interesting artifacts on display inside the current Mint building. Peter the Eagle has been embalmed and is mounted above an old Janvier Reducing lathe right next to the Souvenir Shop. A group of tourists from Africa were hovered by the Janvier machine reading the story of Peter and how he made a home near the second US Mint building. It is believed that Peter

was the model for the American Eagle appearing on the US Silver Dollars of 1836 through 1839 and then again for our Flying Eagle cents. Legend has it that, one day, tame old Peter sat perched atop a flywheel of a press when it latched suddenly and caught him up in the gears. With a broken wing Peter lasted only three more days. The saddened Mint workers had his body mounted and he has remained on display at each of the working Mints ever since.

But I was more ensconced in the Reducing lathe, where an 11” copper model of a Mint building was on display as well as the fully machined hub fixed on the opposite end of the fulcrum. It looked like it was ready to take out and commence striking medals. I studied the belts and reducing gears, trying to figure out how the apparatus worked. My guess is it was 1940’s vintage, but too esoteric even for the *Antiques Roadshow*. But modern transfer lathes being employed to make Master Hubs are tributes to modern computerization and tooling.



There are old paintings and doorlocks and bricks from the first Mint building on display, which didn’t do much for me. But the two screw presses on display certainly had my attention, perhaps the highlight of the tour there—even though most people don’t even notice them. The first sits in the corner of the entrance foyer just when you pass the metal detectors. A couple years ago I got a real kick out of their Security personnel there. I walked over to the press and studied the assemblage and moving parts—all in remarkable working order. I then pulled out my cellphone to snap some shots. After about six photos the officer came over and sternly warned me, “You’re going to have to leave now—no photos allowed!!!” I looked at him in astonishment, “Are you



guys actually worried I'm stealing technology of a screw press from 1795?????" I then went on to tell him I'd delete the images if I could stay, and he just turned away.

A larger screw press rests more prominently in the museum area upstairs. Apparently, it was used for the larger diameter coinage, while the one in the foyer was probably for dimes and half-dimes and so on. But right next to it is a chair from the original Mint, so of course, more tourists are interested in that than the screw press.

Years ago, I hawked an invite inside and onto the production floor of the Mint for a personal tour of the Diemaking Shop. I was able to spend time with some of their technical folks and, of course, we had quite a lively confabulation to say the least. Man, I just soaked that stuff up, and will try to bring it down to lay-man's terms here.

Die metallurgy 101

Die metallurgy does get a bit confusing for the unindoctrinated but I find diemaking history just as fascinating as Mint history. I have assembled a good bit of data on how diemaking has evolved over the past 200 years. At some ANA or FUN Show I will be giving a Powerpoint presentation on what I have found, and it is very interesting.

All over the Die Shop one can observe long bars of steel stacked in bins. Labeled with diameter, heat number, condition, etc. The bars wobble like cooked spaghetti when a forklift carries them—"Man," you say, I thought those things would be like hickory when moved. But they arrive annealed, and in a very soft condition. Actually, as far as I know, the Mint in reality never performs annealing anymore-- or at least I can see no reason why they would need to. The necessity of annealing vanished when the Mint employed single-press hubbing in the 1990's.

Bars used for dies come fully annealed as shipped by the supplier. They are very close to the proper working diameter when they arrive. The Mint can't anneal the bars because they are very long as shipped into the Mint, perhaps 10 to 14 feet long. Because of the exacting operating requirements of the Mint for machining tolerance, they prefer to bring the bars in at this length then cut and machine the bars themselves. In reality suppliers such as Carpenter Technology (my employer) use a special type of anneal known as "spheroidized anneal." It is a low temperature anneal, maybe 1400 to 1500F for a very long time (perhaps a day) followed by an extremely slow cool. This makes the die steel "dead soft" as compared to a more standard anneal which while imparting a lot of softness to the die, would still be too hard to hub.

After polishing and hubbing the dies do work-harden somewhat, but the amount of increased hardness is quite minor and more importantly very localized to the surface. Metallurgists often discuss "work-harden rates." In other words if you deform two different metals, perhaps nickel and iron, the same exact amount they will NOT harden the same amount and for some metals or alloys, they barely work-harden at all. On the other hand, some metals go nuts... I am working on a project for work-hardened armor plate for the Abrams tank, and this alloy was designed in part reason for fast work-hardening rates. I can't

give you the entire composition but will say we discovered that adding nitrogen to metals has an enormous impact on work-hardening rate. I joke to these guys "this stuff gets hard when I stomp on it!!!" We can double the tensile strength with just 20% cold-work. Why work-harden metals? The simple answer is a lot of metals are not "heat treatable."

It gets confusing... the temperatures used for annealing and heat treating are very close and sometimes the same for the same metal. But annealing is a softening operation and heat treating always-- always!-- refers to a hardening operation. In the case of 52100 die steel, the Mint will heat to 1500F or so and then quench in oil or polymer, and man, does this stuff get hard-- like Kelsey's knuckles.

A lot of metals can't be heat treated, so metallurgists work harden them to boost the tensile strength (hardness). But even work hardening the most work-hardenable alloys will never get close the hardness the Mint needs for operational dies. Die steels are over 300,000 psi tensile. So a 1" by 1" die steel can lift over 300,000 lbs before it breaks! That's a lot of cars. Get this... this stuff is so hard we don't even pull tensile bars because it would bust up the machines. So the specs just call out Rockwell hardness requirements, a simpler test that correlates well with tensile.

Well, enough about metallurgy... if you absolutely, positively need to learn more, like I said I will be giving a Powerpoint show on this subject at some future Convention.

If you are a charter member or even a long-time member, please send your reminiscences of your early club days to our editor, Rick Snow at rick@indiancent.com.



Members!

Please consider writing about your experiences within the past 20 years in the Fly-In Club. If you are a charter member we'd love to publish your story. If you are a late-joiner, we'd also love to hear your story.

Since a stand-alone issue looks like a stretch, we will intersperse the articles in Longacre's Ledger over the next year. Please submit your stories soon.
-Editor. Rick@IndianCent.com

Rick Snow receives “Numismatist of the Year” from The ANA.

Editorial, by Rick Snow, Fly-In #1

I was deeply honored to be named this year's recipient of this very prestigious award. The award is in recognition of being the co-founder of this club, now entering its 20th year. Throughout the past 20 years, the interest in the club has gone in cycles of high and low interest. There were times when it looked like the club was going the route of other clubs that started around the same time. Where is the Barber Collectors Society today?

The club started with lots of enthusiasm in 1990. Larry Steve (Fly-In #2) and myself put great effort into getting it off the ground. Very quickly we were over 400 members. The articles came pouring in from many collectors and the information presented made this club very special.

Today, we are still going strong and I think the new color version of Longacre's Ledger looks great and is very popular.

Another reason I was presented this award is my commitment to fighting overgrading and doctored coins through my Photo Seal program. This was started with the help of Brian Wag-

ner in 1996 and is still popular and useful in the market. It was such a good idea that PCGS and NGC co-founder, John Albanese used the exact same idea for the very successful CAC (Collectors Acceptance Corporation). John even accepts Photo Sealed coins as if they were CAC'd. This is testament to my consistency and determination at keeping problem coins out of the market that I work in.

Perhaps the ANA also thought that being an instructor for the Summer Seminar over the years was reason to consider me for the award. Teaching a week-long course on Flying Eagle and Indian cents is very enjoyable for me and the students that attended my class. At first I shared the course with Virg Marshall III, who covered Lincoln Cents. Later, I filled the entire week with Flying Eagle and Indian Cents.

All of these achievements were done in partnership with others, so I want to thank everyone who helped me along the way in my journey in numismatics. All the club members who have helped the Fly-In Club deserve a piece of this honor. Thank you very much.

Twenty Years Ago

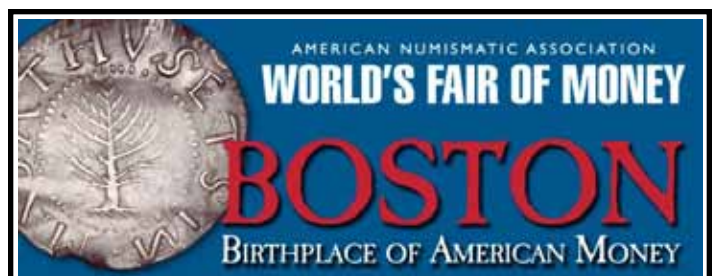
By Vern Sebby, Fly-In #474

In keeping with the Fly-In Club's 20-year anniversary theme, I looked back through my records to find what was then the focus of my numismatic pursuits. Before looking at specifics, my best recollection (foggy as that is in my advancing years), was that I was attempting to put together a set of Walking Liberty Halves in MS-60 to 63, and a set of Indian Cents in MS-63 to 64. I must confess that the Walkers were my highest priority.

Searching my records was quite a trip down memory lane. Things were certainly different back then. Slabbing coins was in its infancy, most coins were not in holders. Teletrade was a new service that conducted auctions of these slabbed coins over touchtone phones. The internet didn't exist yet, at least not for public use. Ebay wasn't even yet a dream (wish I'd thought of it). Eagle Eye Rare Coins didn't exist yet. I think Rick was working for Eliot Goldman at Allstate Coins. There were four little coin shops within 30 minutes of my home. Now there is one that is 40 minutes away. Virtually every Sunday there was a small coin show within easy driving distance. Those have vanished to be replaced by two regular monthly shows in Chicago's suburbs (I'm lucky(???), I live within an hour of Chicago).

1990 was an active year for me, I purchased 35 Walkers, 18 Indian Cents and a small assortment of whatever else caught my eye. Of those 53 plus coins, only one remains with me today, a proof 1890 Indian Cent, that was in a PCGS Prf-63 RB holder. It is the only proof Indian Cent I own, and I've kept it because it's a very appealing cameo proof. All of the other coins are long gone. I sold the Walkers in the mid '90's, so I could afford to buy nicer Indian Cents, which I thought were much tougher to find, and considerably less expensive. An Unc 1921-S Walker always seemed out of my financial reach. I sold or traded the other 17 Indians for ones I liked better.

One thing this nostalgic trip confirms for me is that nice Indian Cents are harder to find today than they were 20 years ago. In the past decade, I've averaged acquiring only 4 Indians per year, with 80 percent of those coming from fellow collectors or Rick. I'm certain I've gotten more selective than I was in 1990, but there are at least a half dozen slightly tougher dates that I bought in 1990, that are nicer than the ones I see that are available today.



**Fly-In Club
Meeting
Friday, August 13, 2010
1:00**

The Blog

By Charmy Harker

BEWARE! IT CRAWLS.... IT CREEPS.... IT EATS YOU ALIVE!
THE INDESTRUCTIBLE CREATURE! BLOATED WITH THE BLOOD OF ITS VICTIMS!
TERROR HAS NO SHAPE – SCREAM NOW, WHILE THERE’S STILL ROOM TO BREATHE!
IF IT HAD A MIND, YOU COULD REASON WITH IT.
IF IT HAD A FACE, YOU COULD LOOK IT IN THE EYE.
AND IF IT HAD A BODY, YOU COULD SHOOT IT.



These lines were some of the taglines from the 1958 classic horror movie “The Blob” starring a very young Steve McQueen about an alien lifeform that consumes everything in its path as it grows and grows. I don’t know about you, but if you’re not careful, participating in online blogging can sometimes seem like the same thing. Perhaps some of you can have experienced how The Blog may seem harmless and innocuous one minute, but can quickly snowball into a destructive man-eating lifeform the next minute!

The term “blog” was coined in mid-1999 and is a contraction of “web log.” Since then, blogging has become increasingly popular, both on personal websites (“online diary” or “bloggery”) and on community forums (“digital communities” or “online discussion sites”). Typically on a community forum, members will start a thread with a question or thought, and other members will post their responses. It is these community forums that tend to draw more controversy and seem to take on a life of their own, which is sometimes not all that positive, so blogging on community forums will be the focus of this article.

I have seen and even experienced blogging gone bad. I have read demeaning posts on coin forums that made me shake my head and even made me groan and want to scream. I have read derogatory blogs that spewed such maliciousness that it made my skin crawl. Perhaps you too have read posts on some of the various coin-related forums that made you want to reach through the computer and put the author out of everyone’s misery!

I am not trying to scare anyone away from participating in online discussion forums - on the contrary, I have found online coin forums to be very rewarding and have learned a great deal from their members. I am hoping that by writing this article, it will encourage and help those interested in joining an online forum to have a more positive experience and to be able to have a better understanding on how to participate and contribute in a more knowledgeable and constructive manner.

Regrettably, it is not uncommon for otherwise benign people to hide behind the relative anonymity of computers while typing and posting whatever controversial, negative, attacking, and/or inappropriate words come to their mind. Sometimes they even do this while “under the influence” of chemicals which only enhances their inflammatory remarks. In any event, reading or participating in negative blogging can detract from and spoil the intent of an otherwise positive, enjoyable, and usually educational experience. So here are some behavioral tips that, if more people practiced, might enhance everyone’s experience with *The Blog*.

- Read and follow the forum rules. Community forums are NOT public and each forum usually posts their own set of rules so be sure to read them carefully before you begin posting. Forums usually have moderators who will follow threads and can modify, lock, and/or delete any thread and/or post they feel is inappropriate for whatever reason. And they can also remove and ban a member for further participation on their forum. “Freedom of speech” does not necessarily apply to privately run forums so it is

best to behave according to their rules if you want to participate.

- Don't take posts and comments personally. To me, this is one of the most important things I have learned while participating in blogging forums. Of course, it's easier said than done, but it will serve you well when the time comes – and most likely it will!
- Don't be controversial and make posts just to get attention. Only post when you have something of note to add, and then keep your posts professional and respectful.
- Avoid derogatory and disparaging remarks about fellow forum members. Learn how to deliver interesting and professional opinions without criticizing others. If you have a personal issue you want to address with another individual, take the issue off-forum either in an email or a private message (pm) rather than in a public forum setting.
- Crude and vulgar language should be avoided at all cost. Any form of defamation, strong language, criticism, or even downright critical opinion of another member is unnecessary and only draws attention away from the actual topic being discussed.
- Use emoticons (tiny pictures like smiley faces, thumbs up, etc.) and other symbols to indicate tone. When posting on a forum (or in an email for that matter), there is an absence of indicators that help demonstrate voice tone, facial expressions, body language, and other emotions. In the absence of these valuable social cues, emoticons and symbols can help make your tone and intention clear to other forum participants.
- Don't "hijack" forum threads. Stay on topic. If you'd like to discuss a different issue or problem, start a separate thread. If someone posts a coin they want to "show off" or have people comment on, unless you have a specific related reason to do so, avoid posting a photo of your coin, as it may detract from the original poster's coins.
- Be very careful about what you write because anything you write on the Internet stays on the internet. And you don't want your words to come back later and "bite" you.

The next few tips are geared toward being more technically proficient in the blogging world:

- Read all of the posts in the thread before posting on the internet forum. This will help forum participants avoid repeating points that have already been discussed in depth.
- The title should consist of important key words that briefly explain what your post will be about.
- Avoid typing and spelling mistakes – go back and read your post before you release it.
- Avoid typing in all caps or all bold, as this is the equivalent to yelling on an internet forum.
- Avoid creating extremely long forum posts on a regular basis.
- Post links to cited facts or other posts that are referenced.
- Avoid posting a link to a site that requires a user to register on that site.
- Don't quote an entire post if you are only responding to a specific comment.
- If you are the original thread starter or opening poster (OP), avoid writing a response after each and every comment – wait for several replies, then write your response (you can quote and reply to several different posts in your one response)
- Don't respond to a post just to increase your post count (the number of times you post on a forum from the date of joining).
- Be careful not to post copyrighted material.

For those of you who would like a more in depth understanding of the internet forum world, I found this Wikipedia link to be very helpful: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_forum#Thread

And last but not least, I compiled these general blogging terms and coin-related abbreviations from various websites that may help you understand and navigate the coin blogging world.



TERM	MEANING
AT	Artificial Toning
B&M	Brick & Mortar, your local coin shop
Board	Short for “message board” similar to “bulletin board” and “discussion forum”; discussion forums are more interactive than message boards or bulletin boards
Blog	Short for “Web log”; an online diary of your thoughts on a specific topic or whatever crosses your mind; see discussion forum
Blogger	Person who blogs, a person who post comments or questions on blogs
Blogging	[vb] The act of posting on blogs; [adj] those things related to blogs
Blogosphere	The Internet blogging community
BOLO	Be On the Look Out
BRB	Be Right Back [used in chat rooms]
BST	Buy, Sell, Trade, BST Forum
BTW	By The Way
CAC	Certified Acceptance Corporation, an independent numismatic coin authentication service
CBH	Capped Bust Half
CCW	Counter Clock Wise, as in rotation of a die, used in rotational error identification
CPG	Cherry Picker’s Guide
Discussion Forum	Interactive online communities formed for group discussion and presentation of information on specific or general topics; “blogs” and “message boards” are related terms; many online communities also have group and private “chat rooms” and private instant messaging features for their members
DIVA	Designated Ike Variety (same idea as VAMs, but for Eisenhower dollars)
DNC	Did Not Cross, coins submitted to a third party grading service that do not cross into their holder
Down thread	[adv] Earlier posts; comments that are found below the post you are reading or responding to
Dreck	Particularly inferior coins
ED	Early Date
EDS	Early Die State
EMDS	Early Middle Die State
EOR	End Of Roll, as in a coin that was exposed at the end of a bank roll that exhibits paper flap toning
FB	FeedBack, eBay term for seller/buyer comments
FB	Mercury dimes exhibiting Full Bands due to an excellent strike
FBL	Full Bell Lines on rev of Franklin Half Dollar
FE/Flyer	Flying Eagle cent (1856-1858)
FEP	Friendly Eagle Pattern, 1971 D Ike dollar with the RDV 006 reverse
First Strike	First coins struck by Mint dies
Flame	[v] To post a series of highly inflammatory insulting comments, often using profanity
Frankies	Simple slang for Franklin half dollar
FSH	For Sale Here on the BST forum
FT	Full Torch (used to designate a full strike on Roosies)
FWIW	For what it’s worth
GAE	Gold American Eagle
GSA CC	Government Services Administration, Carson City mint
GTG	Guess The Grade
Grand Slam	When a coin sells for 100X or more than the original purchase price
H/O	Hello
Heading	[n] The name the poster gives to his/her comment
Homerun	When a coin is sold for more than 10X the original purchase price
IIRC	If I Recall Correctly
IMO	In My Opinion
IMHO	In My Humble Opinion
IMNSHO	In My Not So Humble Opinion

IRL	In Real Life
J/K	Just Kidding
JMHO	Just My Humble Opinion
JMO	Just My Opinion
KoolAid	“Drinking the KoolAid” - becoming a firm believer in something; accepting an argument or philosophy wholeheartedly or blindly (term originated with the Jonestown Massacre)
LDS	Late Die State
LMAO	Laughing My Ass Off (see ROFLMAO)
LOL	Laugh Out Loud
Lurk	[vb] To visit a discussion forum without posting comments
Lurker	[n] Often “newbies” (see newbie) who start out by just reading posts on the site before becoming an active poster
MA	Market Acceptable
Macro	Photography term usually associated with a type of lens setting for close ups
MAD	MisAligned Die
“I made a coin”	A coin was bought raw and then submitted for certification by a third party grading service
Matte finish	Also thought of as SATIN finish, mint dies glass bead blasted/pickled
MDS	Middle Die State
Micro O	Super small New Orleans mint mark
Milk spots	Milky white spots that mysteriously appear on silver eagles due to improper rinse at the mint. They also show up on Peace dollars
MOL	More Or Less
Moon Shot	Scanner bed or camera image taken without magnification or so far away, you need the Hubble to identify the coin
Moose	An incredible coin, usually one that grades MS/PR67 or higher or a coin with astounding eye appeal
MPD	MisPlaced Date
MPL	Matte Proof Lincoln cents (1909-1916)
MS70	Name brand for coin cleaner
NARU	Not A Registered User (an eBay username that has been banned from further using eBay as a result of disobeying rules)
Newbie	[n] A person who is new to a particular discussion forum [blog]
NN	Numismatic News
NPB	Non-Paying Bidder, used in eBay
NT	Natural Toning
OBW	Original Bank Wrapped coin rolls
OF	Open Forum
OGH	Old Green Holder, PCGS slab with green label
OMM	Overpunched Mint Mark such as a D/S
OP	Original Poster, thread starter
OT	Off Topic, a post that is unrelated to the opening post or topic
OTOH	On The Other Hand
Open thread	[n] A thread that includes posts about multiple topics. In an open thread, a person cannot go “off topic” or have “thread drift”
Pallad (or Pd)	Palladium
PC holder	PCGS holder
Plat (or Pt)	Platinum
PM	Private Message, can also stand for Precious Metals
PMD	Post Mint Damage, something occurred after the coin left the Mint
PMDD (die)	Poor Man’s Double Die (die erosion created trailing ghost 5’s in the date, not a true hub doubled die)
Pop	Population, as it pertains to registered coins that are slabbed
Post	[n] The comment; message; [v] the act of submitting a post
Poster	[n] The person who writes a specific post; the same as “blogger”



POV	[n] Point Of View
POTD	Post Of The Day
PQ	Premium Quality
PUP	Pickup Point, a characteristic that usually indicates a nice strike
Rattler Holder	Small first generation PCGS holder with green label; referring to how the coin rattles inside the hard plastic holder
Re-post	[n] [Repost] A comment that has been previously posted on that website or on another website; [v] the act of putting a post in a thread that had previously been posted
RFR	“Run, Forrest, Run!” Avoid at all cost
Roosies	Roosevelt Dimes, particularly 90% silver 1946
ROTFLMAO	Rolling on the floor laughing my ass off. Some letters of this shorthand phrase are omitted to make phrases such as “LMAO” and “ROF”
RPD	RePunched Date such as 1869/69
RPM	RePunched Mintmark such as D/D
SAE	Silver American Eagle
SDB	Safe Deposit Box
Site	[n] Short for “website”
Skin	Originality of a coin as it pertains to strike, luster and look
SLQ	Standing Liberty Quarter
SNAD	Significantly Not As Described (eBay term)
C U later	See you later
TAT	Turn Around Time
TPG	Third Party Grader
Thread	[n] A series of posts either on a specific topic or, in the case of an “open thread,” on multiple topics, or any topic at all
Thread drift	[n] An off topic post in a thread on a specific topic; thread drift is frowned upon to a greater or lesser degree depending on the particular discussion forum or the particular thread within a discussion forum
TOS	Terms of Service, are rules by which one must agree to abide by in order to use a service. Usually, such terms are legally binding
Top Pop	Population being #1 for the grade, as it pertains to registered coins that are encapsulated
Troll	[n] A negative reference for a person who posts on a discussion board for the purpose of disrupting the conversation
TTT	To The Top
UHR	Ultra High Relief \$20 gold struck in 2009, dated MMIX
URL	[n] The address of a website
VAM	Van Allen and Mallis (Morgan and Peace dollar varieties)
VEDS	Very Early Die States
VEMS	Very Early Middle States
Widget	Run of the mill, common date coins
w/	With
WTB	Want To Buy
WTC Coins	World Trade Center coins (coins minted from silver recovered from the site)
YN	Young Numismatists
WTG	Way To Go (a compliment)



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Harper's Weekly Feb. 7, 1857

NOT A RED CENT.

We give you, out of the abundance of the liberal resources of our establishment, a "counterfeit presentment" of the new cent.



You see for yourselves the patriotic design—the wreath entwined with the vine and Indian corn on the one side, and that everlasting American eagle, "spreading its wings and soaring aloft," on the other. The bird, by-the-by, has rather an anserine than an aquiline look, and is said to be the same as once was set loose upon golden wings in a previous issue of half-eagles, but having been again caged, in consequence of its barn-yard fowl appearance, is now to be turned adrift for a humbler flight.

The cut gives an exact representation of the size, with the exception of the thickness, which is about equal to that of two half-eagles put together. The composition is of copper and nickel. As the former metal has become dearer, from the fact of its supply not having kept up with the manufacturing demand for it, the Government gains by the alloy, as, although the nickel is comparatively dear, the quantity used of the mixed metal is smaller. The intrinsic value at one time of the single copper cent was only 1-50th part of the dollar; now, with the heightened value of copper, it has risen to nearly 1-86th. The new cent only costs 1-65th part of the dollar.

Provided the act of Congress, which establishes the new cent, becomes a law, which it has not as yet, we think the public will be a gainer by the new coin. Its smaller size makes it much more convenient for handling, and less burdensome for transportation, while the neater look and the freedom from the *brassy* odor, renders it much more acceptable to fastidious delicacy. Ladies may now venture to touch with their ungloved fingers small change without being, like Lady Macbeth, unable to wash out with Cologne, or any other toilet detersive, the "damned spot" of a base contamination.

There is a great deal that is interesting in the history of the old American cent, which we would like to have eliminated. Will our "Notes and Queries" tell us something about the old Washington Penny, for which eager collectors are willing, it is said, to pay for in weight of gold? Let us know something, also, about the whereabouts of these rarities. Franklin, as well as Washington, we believe, has honored the penny with his name. What was his design? Is it a fact, that at one time, our cents—eagle, stars, and all—were manufactured in Great Britain, at the celebrated Soho Works of Birmingham, belonging to Bolton and the great Watt, and imported in the gross by our hardware merchants, and sold at large profits to small dealers for their own purposes?

We will lose an American proverb, now widely circulated, by the issue of the new coin. "He's not worth a red cent" will be of such general application that it will not have any specific meaning, and will be of course dropped, for the new cent is not red, being of a gray, silvery aspect.

Cent struck on a Half Dime!
Part 1 - Can you guess the date?
By Rick Snow



Henry Hilgard, a noted error and early US coinage enthusiast came up to me at the Ft. Worth ANA show with this beauty, asking “Can you tell me what date it is?”

The coin is a undated (uniface) Indian Cent struck on a half dime planchet. The reason it is uniface is that when the coin was struck, there were two blanks in the press - the half dime planchet and another one, presumably a regular cent planchet.

We should be able to date the coin, or at least narrow down the dates. The last half dimes were minted in 1873, so it should be minted before that. The Oak Wreath and Shield design started in 1859 with the pattern, Judd-228, and continued on regularly since 1860. That’s only 13 years.

So, what’s your guess?

Read the article titled, *The Oak and Shield. Reverse dies for the Indian Cents* on page 20 and then find the answer on page 22.

The Case of the Dateless Indian Cent Counterbrockage Error

By Cleve Barwig



You never know what you are going to find on the internet. Sometimes you stumble on a discovery when you least expect it. Here is one such example...

While surfing the internet I came across a stunning, dateless Indian cent with an obverse counterbrockage error. It was certified by NGC as MS-65 BN. The obverse displayed an image of the portrait in low relief that was spread out to nearly twice the normal size. I had never seen anything like it. The date however, was completely obliterated. The obverse, while interesting and unusual looking, is not what really grabbed my attention.

The reverse of this error coin was normally struck. The reverse displayed a couple of incredibly bold die cracks: one going across the left wreath at about 9:30 and the other going across the right wreath at about 3:30. It stopped me dead in my tracks as I had a moment of realization... I had seen these die cracks before.



Now rewind a couple of weeks. I purchased a 1900 Indian cent certified by NGC as MS-65 BN. The 1900 was a nice problem-free example and in addition, it had a couple of interesting die cracks on the reverse. They were easily seen with the naked eye. One die crack went across the left wreath at about 9:30 and the other went across the right wreath at about 3:30. When it arrived in the mail, it sat on my desk for a while and I didn't give it any more thought.

Now with this dateless coin in-hand, I remembered the 1900 I purchased just a couple weeks prior that had similar die cracks. Surely they weren't the same, I thought to myself. What would be the odds of that!?





I compared the reverse of my 1900 with the photos of the reverse of the dateless error coin. I was stunned! They appeared to be not just similar die cracks, but an exact match! It was apparent that the 1900 was an earlier die state, since the cracks on it were not as bold as the ones on the error coin, but nonetheless after careful study of the pictures and my coin, I came to the conclusion the shape and position of the cracks matched perfectly!

Die cracks are much like fingerprints in that they are unique to a specific die. No two dies would crack exactly the same. Characteristics such as cracks, chips, polish lines, etc. can be used to identify one specific die and exclude all others.

Based on these matching die cracks, I was convinced that the 1900 and the error coin were struck with the same reverse die. My mind raced. I realized that I knew something about this error coin that nobody in the previous 110 years had known, but likely wondered about. I knew the date of this dateless coin and had the sister coin to prove it.

As I contemplated purchasing this error coin, I thought about the possibility of submitting it and the 1900 to NGC to be certified in one holder as a pair. Since the seller was asking a significant amount of money for the error coin, I sought some advice before purchasing this error coin. I posted a thread about this discovery on the Coin Community Family forum on the Internet (www.coincommunity.com). A response from a long-time and well-respected member struck a chord with me.

This member replied (quoted in part with his permission), “Part and parcel of numismatics is the accumulation of knowledge, more so than in almost any other hobby. I believe we, as collectors, owe it to those who follow to add to the store of information when opportunity presents.” He further added, “... your proposal to join these two coins would create a set whose combined value should substantially exceed their separate value, while adding something important to the bigger picture.”

I feared that if I waited too long, this opportunity would pass me by. I would then be left to always wonder, "what if..." This was a rare opportunity at which I probably would not get a second chance.

I purchased the error coin, which arrived several days later. I couldn't get the package open fast enough! With both coins in hand, I examined them side-by-side. I could clearly see that in addition to the two main cracks, there was several other small die cracks displayed by both coins in the same position.

Both had a small die crack on the middle arrow tip that branched off the main crack. There was another at the base of the T in CENT and yet another matching die crack on the ribbon.

The matching reverse die cracks are proof beyond a shadow of a doubt. After over 100 years of mystery, the one nagging question asked by all her prior owners could finally be answered... this amazing and rare counterbrockage error was minted in 1900.



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The Oak and shield
Reverse dies for the Indian Cents
By Richard Snow

In 1858, four basic designs were produced by James Longacre and Anthony Paquet. The problem in judging these designs by was not one of artistic merit, but one of durability - the durability of the dies. The relief was too high on both the obverse and reverse of the Flying Eagle cent. The dies were breaking or wearing out too fast with the high striking pressure needed to bring up the design in the hard copper-nickel alloy.

As part of the plan, the regular designs were lowered in relief. The Large Letter Flying Eagle became the Small Letter design. The High Leaves "Agricultural Wreath" became the Low Leaf design. Other designs were attempted to further reduce the

dies and how well they would strike up the coins under modest pressure. Most show weakness on the shield, so it seems they decided to increase the pressure.

This first reverse had all the letters of ONE CENT the same height above the field. The centers of the E's are slightly T-shaped. This reverse was used until 1861 and may exist on some later dates as well.

There was a major redesign of the Indian in 1860. It almost seems like a backward step in aesthetics, but the design was shallower in the center of Lady Liberty's head, right by the

ear. This modification was made solely to increase the die life. It seems that it didn't do enough, because in 1862 the reverse relief was lowered. The center of the design, by the lower right corner of the N in ONE, was made shallower in the die.

This second reverse, or "Shallow N," is believed to have been first used in 1862, but I would not be surprised to have someone find an 1861 with this reverse. Nor would an 1862 with the first reverse be unusual. The differences are so subtle that collectors (myself included) have not paid too much attention to this change.

The Shallow N design had the effect of pushing more metal up into the die cavity of the obverse die. When the composition of the cent changed in 1864, this feature was no longer necessary. The softer bronze alloy was much easier on the dies. There was no real reason to alter the dies. It didn't help and it didn't hurt, either. Slight tinkering may have been done in the next few years as by 1869, the shallowness of the N is much more noticeable.



First Reverse 1859-1861

metal flow. Paquet made a low relief eagle obverse design that contorted the eagle so that the tail and head were not opposite the wreath on the reverse. Longacre produced the Indian Head which satisfied all the demands to help strike up the coins properly and have an artistic design as well.

Other wreaths proposed featured an oak wreath surrounding ONE CENT. The selected design was an olive leaf wreath, which Mint Director Snowden later called "Laurel." The name stuck. After it was put into service in 1859, it was thought that the reverse needed a more "National" appearance. This was accomplished by adding a Federal shield to the oak wreath design. The wreath also had a few sprigs of olive along with the bunch of arrows at the base of the wreath.

This design was used on a small issue of patterns with the 1859 date. These are unusual in that they were struck with unpolished dies on the regular press. I suppose that they were attempting to test the



Second Reverse "Shallow N" 1862-1869 (+)
(1862 shown)



***Second Reverse “Shallow N” 1862-1869 (+)
(1869 shown)***

After James Longacre passed away in January 1869, the position of Chief Engraver fell to William Barber. In 1870 Barber redesigned the oak and shield reverse to bring the level of the ONE CENT up to the same level. This is the third redesign, the “Bold N” reverse. It seems that bringing the level of the denomination was given some importance by Barber. About 20 dies already sunk with the Shallow N design were re-hubbed with Barber’s new Bold N work. This created a large number of doubled dies in the varieties known for 1870. The situation is equivalent to that which Barber (and his Assistant Engraver, George Morgan) faced in 1878 when they rehubbbed many of the reverse dies for the new dollar which had an eight tail feather design with the new design with seven tail feathers.

The bold N design was used continuously until the end of the series, with the exception of the regular issue of 1877. There were some Shallow N dies still remaining from 1870 that had not been re-hubbed and were still perfectly usable. A few were used in 1870, 1871 and 1872. A single Shallow N die was still waiting to be used in 1877.

Besides the evenness of the letters, the shape of the E’s are very different. These now have trumpet-shaped centers rather than the T-shaped centers found on the Shallow N and earlier designs. Another curious feature on the Bold N design is what has variably been called “Extra Outlines” or “Longacre Doubling.” This is a shelf that extends off the edges of the letters that does not change from year to year. It can be considered part of the design. Some dies, like the 1874 below don’t have it because the die was not sunk deep enough to show it. Most others have it.

Knowing the various reverse diagnostics can aid in detecting counterfeits. Most all the common dates have Bold N reverses. When an error shows up without a date showing it may be possible to narrow the actual date by comparing the reverse dies.



***Third Reverse “Bold N” 1870-1909.
Strong extra outlines (1902 shown)***



***Third Reverse “Bold N” 1870-1909.
Weak extra outlines (1874 shown)***

Cent struck on a Half Dime!
Part 2 - the date revealed
By Rick Snow



The date in question.



So, what date is it? It is not anything after 1873, since the half dimes were not made after 1873.

Obviously, it is not the Shallow N reverse so we can rule out the dates from 1862 to 1869 and all of 1877. Although Shallow N reverses were also used in 1870-1872, these were not the only designs used, so we will not rule them out just yet.

It is not the Bold N reverse either, since the centers of the E's are not the trumpet shape style. The Bold N design was started in 1870 and continued on until 1909, so it is not any of the 1870-1873 dates.

The only remaining dates are 1860 and 1861 (also the 1859 patterns). Barring finding the exact die match, or the corresponding obverse strike, we can only say that these are the likely dates.

1859-1861 is the answer.



Closest match - 1861

1862

S9 1862, Damaged reverse.

Obv. 11: (C) The date is very high, with the flag of the 1 level with the bust point.

Rev K: Olive leaf and shield points away from the denticles. There is a large die break from the right upright of the N in CENT to the lower right edge of the N in ONE.

Attributed to: Charmy Harker

This is a dramatic variety. The SW corner of the E is raised with the break. It is possible that the break is caused by a flaw in the metal that cause the die to break during the hardening process. The break could have formed during use, so this die may exist without the flaw{63}



S9 1862, Damaged reverse.



S9 1862, Date area.

S10 1862, File marks by Ear.

Obv. 12: (C) Heavy die file marks below and left of the ear. The date is low with the base of the 2 close to the denticles.

Rev L: Olive leaf and shield points away from the denticles.

Attributed to: Charmy Harker

If the die file marks were made midway in the die's life, then this may be a die state. It seems that marks this deep were likely made during die production when the dies were in a softer, annealed state, in which case they would be seen on all die states. {65}



S10 1862, File marks by Ear.



S10 1862, Date area.



1863



S16 1863, 8/8 (n), Off-center clash.

S16 1863, 8/8 (n), Off-center clash.

Obv. 18: (LH) Three triangular clash marks from the denticles of another die. Rim breaks visible from 9:00 to 11:30. Possible repunching in the lower loop of the 8.

Rev. P: Shield and olive leaf well away from denticles.

Attributed to: Don Stovall

Off-center clash marks are believed to be caused by a casual hardness test. {55}

1865 Fancy 5



S18 1865 Fancy 5, Pierced cheek.

S18 1865 Fancy 5, Pierced cheek.

Obv. 19: (RE) Heavy die scratch through Liberty's eye and upper lip. The base of the 65 in the date is shallow. Date very high.

Rev. AI: Olive leaf and shield points away from the denticles.

Attributed to Mark Entman

This is a very interesting variety. The placement of the die line make it look like some sort of facial piercing. {40}



1865 Fancy 5 S18, Date area.

1865 Plain 5

S15 1865 Plain 5, Off-center clashes.

Obv. 18 (LE) Three different sets of clash marks from the denticles of another die are visible across the portrait. Two different ones are on the lower neck, beneath the jaw line. A third is on the far right end of the ribbon, by the 9th feather. Early die state has die striations from 2:00 to 8:00.

Rev. AA: Olive leaf and shield points are well away from the denticles. The denticles are separated. Early die state has die striations from 1:00 to 7:00.

Attributed to: Skip Fazzari

The multiple clashes are very obvious. It is probable that the dies were hit together to test the hardness of the die. {64RB}



S15 1865 Plain 5, Off-center clashes.

1874

S6 1874, 1/1 (n).

Obv. 7: (LH) Slight repunching above the left base of the 1. Die crack from the left base of the 1 to the rim at 7:00.

Rev: T3-F: Shield points away from the denticles. Olive leaf away from the denticles, but there is a small die crack connecting them.

Attributed to: Eugene Bruder.

The repunching is fairly light and may easily be overlooked. {64RB}



S6 1874, 1/1 (n).



1890

S19 1890, Die break through 1.

Obv. 21: (LH) A heavy die brake is visible below the 1 and between the 1 and the bust point. A die crack continues into the neck.

Rev. U: Shield points are just away from the denticles. Olive leaf is connected.

Attributed to: Mark Entman

This is a die state and may only deserve a premium with the full die break below the 1 present. {30}



S19 1890, Die break through 1.

1898

S12 1898, 8 in denticles.

Obv. 14: (B) The top of a digit is visible in the denticles below and slightly right of the 9.

Rev. O: Olive leaf and shield points connected to the denticles.

Attributed to: Anthony Bohle

The digit is fairly obvious in the denticles. The digit is assumed to be an 8, due to its similar curvature. {40}



S12 1898, 8 in denticles.

1899



S33 1899, 8/8 (e).

S33 1899, 8/8 (e).

Obv. 35: (C) Wide repunching to the right of the 8.

Rev. AH: Olive leaf and shield points just connected to denticles.

Attributed to: Ron Robertson

The repunching is rather wide. It may be very scarce since it had gone undetected for so long. {64RB}

1902



S18 1902, Die Gouge.

S18 1902, 1/1 (s).

Obv. 21: (LE) There is a large die gouge from the denticles through the T in UNITED. A smaller one is just above it.

Rev. R: Olive leaf away from the denticles. Shield points connected.

Attributed to: Frank Leone

This is a significant die gouge.

{64RB, 63RB, 55 (holed)}



S18 1902, Date Area.

